SENARII GRÆCI

PRÆMIO PORSONIANO

QUOTANNIS PROPOSITO

DIGNATI

ET

IN CURIA CANTABRIGIENSI

RECITATI

COMITIIS MAXIMIS

A. D. M.DCCC.XXXIX.

AUCTORE

EDVARDO MEREDITH COPE,

COLL. SS. TRIN. SCHOL.

SHAKSPEARE.

KING HENRY VI. Part III. *Act* II. *Scene* 5.

The battle fares like to the morning's war,
When dying clouds contend with growing light;
What time the shepherd, blowing of his nails,
Can neither call it perfect day, nor night.
Now sways it this way, like a mighty sea,
Forc'd by the tide to combat with the wind;
Now sways it that way, like the self-same sea,
Forc'd to retire by fury of the wind:
Sometime, the flood prevails; and then, the wind;
Now, one the better; then, another best:
Both tugging to be victors, breast to breast,
Yet neither conqueror, nor conquered:
So is the equal poise of this fell war.
Here on this molehill will I sit me down.
To whom God will, there be the victory!

IDEM GRÆCE REDDITUM.

Ὁ νῦν προβαίνειν ὡς ἑωθινὸς δοκεῖ
ἀγὼν, ἐπεὶ φθίνοντα συμβάλλει μάχην
νέφη πρὸς ἀντέλλοντος ἡλίου φάος·
ἐπεὶ δ' ὁ ποιμὴν ὄνυχα θερμαίνων πνοαῖς
οὔτ' εὐφρόνην τέλειον οὔτ' ἦμαρ καλεῖ.
νῦν μὲν προσέρπει τῇδ', ὅπως κλυδὼν μέγας,
ὃς ἐξ ἀνάγκης ποντίας πλημμυρίδος
ἦλθ' εἰς ἔριν πρὸς πνεῦμα· νῦν δ' ἐκεῖ ῥέπει,
ὡς ἡνίχ' αὐτὸς ἐξαναγκασθείς ποτε
ἀνέμων ὑπείκει πόντος ἰσχυρῷ μένει·
νικᾷ δὲ πόντος ἄλλοτ', ἄλλοθ' ἡ πνοή·
κρείσσων δ' ἑκάτερος ἐν μέρει θ' ἥσσων κυρεῖ·
ἀεὶ δ' ἐρείδων στέρν' ἐπὶ στέρνοις βίᾳ
σκληρὸς παλαιστὴς καρτερεῖ νίκης πέρι,
ἀλλ' οὔτε καλλίνικος, οὔθ' ἡσσώμενος·
χὠ δεινὸς οὕτως ἐστ' ἀγὼν ἰσόῤῥοπος.
ἤδη παρ' ὄχθῳ τῷδ' ἐγὼ κλινῶ δέμας·
ἔστω δὲ νείκους ὧν θεὸς θέλει κράτος.

For Margaret my queen, and Clifford too,
Have chid me from the battle; swearing both,
They prosper best of all when I am thence.
'Would I were dead! if God's good will were so:
For what is in this world, but grief and woe?
O God! methinks it were a happy life
To be no better than a homely swain;
To sit upon a hill, as I do now,
To carve out dials quaintly, point by point,
Thereby to see the minutes how they run;
How many make the hour full complete,
How many hours bring about the day,
How many days will finish up the year,
How many years a mortal man may live.

γυνὴ γὰρ ἡ 'μὴ καί μ' ἄναξ Κλιφόρδιος
μάχης ἀπώσαντ', ἐνδατούμενοι λόγους
ὅρκῳ τε προστιθέντες[1] ὡς μάλιστα δὴ
ἡμῶν ἀπόντων εὐτυχεῖ τὰ πράγματα.
εἰ μηκέτ' εἴην· σὺν θεῷ δ' εἰρήσεται·
τί γὰρ τὰ θνητὰ πλὴν ἄχος τε καὶ δύη;
οἴμοι· δοκῶ γὰρ εὐτυχοῦς κύρσαι βίου,
ὃς οὐδὲν ἄλλο πλήν τις ἀγρότης ἔφυ·
ὥσπερ δ' ἐγὼ νῦν, ἐπὶ λόφῳ καθήμενος,
ἐν γνώμοσίν[2] τε δεξίως γράφων τύπους
ὥρας δρόμον δηλοῦντας, ἐξαντλεῖ βίον·
ὡς ἂν μάθῃ χρόνου πόδ' ὡς πορεύεται,
ὅσος ποθ' ὥρας μοῖραν ἐκπλήσει χρόνος,
ὅσος δὲ μέτρον ἡμέρας τελεσφόρου·
ὅσαι δ' ἔτους πληροῦσιν ἡμέραι κύκλον,
ὅσον δὲ μῆκος ἐκτενεῖ θνητὸς βίου.

[1] Cf. Soph. Elect. 47. ὅρκῳ προστιθείς.

[2] Herod. ii. 109. πόλους καὶ γνώμονας, κ.τ.λ. Schweigh. in Lex. Herod. γνώμων "horologium, solare."